

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/873,413

Examiner

Nhan T. Tran

Applicant(s)

SHIOJI, MASAHIRO

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendments filed 10/12/2006 & RCE filed 11/8/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 5, 7-9 and 13-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/12/2006 & 11/8/2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, filed 10/12/2006, with respect to claims 1, 5, 7-9, 13-18 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1, 5, 7-9, 13-18 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 5, 7-9 & 13-18 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 1, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest the combination of all limitations of claim 1 that includes **"...a file number detector for detecting only a count value obtained by counting the number of image files managed by a folder holding the folder identification number selected**

by the selecting operation out of count values obtained by counting for each folder the number of image files managed by the folders formed in said recording medium; a total file number detector for detecting a total number of the image files recorded in said recording medium; a file number displayer for displaying the count value detected by said file number detector and the total number of image files detected by said total file number detector on the screen on which the folder identification numbers are displayed by said folder number displayer; and an information search mode selector to set an information search mode, wherein folder identification numbers, the total number of image files recorded in the recording medium and a count value of the number of image files managed by a currently selected folder are detected and concurrently displayed in response to setting of the information search mode.

Regarding independent claim 13, the prior art of record also fails to teach or fairly suggest the combination of all limitations of claim 13 that includes “...a third detector for detecting only a count value obtained by counting the number of image files managed by a folder corresponding to a designated folder identification number out of count values obtained by counting for each folder the number of image files managed by the folders formed in said recording medium; a displayer for concurrently displaying on a screen the folder identification numbers, the total number and the count value which are respectively detected by said first detector, said second detector and said third detector; an acceptor for accepting a number renewing operation in parallel with a display process of said displayer;

and a renewer for renewing the designated folder identification number noted by said third detector in response to the renewing operation accepted by said acceptor."

Regarding claims 5 & 7-9, these claims are allowed as being dependent from claim 1.

Regarding claims 14-18, these claims are allowed as being dependent from claim 13.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nhan T. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7371. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NHAN T. TRAN
Patent Examiner



DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER